

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 512

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Cookeville Drama Center's *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* upon being chosen as Best Production by the American Association of Community Theaters at the South Eastern Theatre Conference and Regional competition.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable institutions that bring the joys of artistic expression and culture to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center is one such worthy institution that has made a substantial contribution to the cultural fabric of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center's *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* by Jeff Daniels was recently chosen as Best Production by the American Association of Community Theaters (AACTFest) at the South Eastern Theatre Conference and Regional competition held in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* enjoyed a successful run at the Cookeville Drama Center in October of 2005 and 2006, advancing to regional competition via the Tennessee Theatre Association Conference and competition last fall; and

WHEREAS, at regional competition, the esteemed show competed against productions from twelve other eligible states and territories in the southeastern region and was chosen to represent the Southeast at the national AACTFest in Charlotte in June of 2007; and

WHEREAS, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* received numerous other awards, including Best Actor for Steven Gwilt, Outstanding Actor for Bill Haas, Outstanding Sound Design for Brandon Walls, and Outstanding Scenic Design for Chad McDonald; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center is a fully-equipped, 458-seat live performance theatre owned by the City of Cookeville and operated by the Department of Leisure Services; and

WHEREAS, built with Model Cities grant money, the Drama Center opened in August of 1979; it houses the Margery Hargrove Auditorium, named in 1989 for the First Lady of Theatre in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center staff continues to uphold its long tradition of excellence by producing for its patrons the national award-winning Drama Center Backstage series, an annual series of four contemporary plays with variable seating and staging arrangements; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Drama Center is the home of Cookeville Children's Theatre productions and a variety of special events; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center has been warmly welcomed by a thankful community which has been entertained and enlightened time and again by the theater; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Drama Center has inspired applause from the arts community of our nation and has brought honor to the State of Tennessee, and is worthy of the recognition of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Cookeville Drama Center's *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* by Jeff Daniels upon being chosen as Best Production by the American Association of Community Theaters (AACTFest) at the South Eastern Theatre Conference and Regional competition, as we thank the good people associated with the Drama Center for their service to Tennessee, wish them every future success in their cultural endeavors, and offer our hopes for many more years of quality dramatic productions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.